

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04 CU-04 DODE-00

EURE-00 DRC-01 /153 W

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P 201842Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 655

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T VIENNA 9601

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND MBFR

REF: (A) STATE 222698; (B) STATE 227325

1. IN PLANNING CSCE TACTICS FOR COMING WEEKS (REF B), DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF CBM DECISIONS IN GENEVA ON MBFR STABILIZING MEASURES. THE TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS WHICH FOLLOW ARE THOSE WHICH US MBFR DELEGATION DREW FOLLOWING NOV. 5 CONSULTATIONS IN VIENNA WITH CSCE DELOFFS.

2. IF CSCE WERE TO REACH AN AGREED DEFINITION OF A "MANEUVER", THIS WOULD CERTAINLY TEND TO PREJUDICE THE EVENTUAL MBFR DEFINITION OF "MAJOR EXERCISES". WE WOULD FAVOR ADHERING TO PRESENT POSITION THAT PRECISE DEFINITION IS TO BE AVOIDED IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE VOLUNTARY CHARACTER OF CBM. IF A DEFINITION STARTS TO CRYSTALLIZE IN GENEVA, IT SHOULD BE CHECKED CAREFULLY

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FOR ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH US POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN REF A.

3. IF CSCE WERE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT FOR THE LENGTH OF ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED FOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS, THIS COULD PREJUDICE EVENTUAL MBFR REQUIREMENT. REF A CONTEMPLATES EITHER 60 OR 90 DAYS NOTICE OF CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE EXERCISE CALENDAR, WHILE WE GATHER THAT SOVIETS IN GENEVA ARE THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF 6 DAYS. HERE TOO WE WOULD FAVOR ADHERING TO PRESENT POSITION THAT NO PRECISE FIGURE IN CSCE IS DESIRABLE. WE DOUBT THE WISDOM OF US ACCEPTING AT GENEVA ANY TIME PERIOD SHORTER THAN US IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT FOR MBFR.

4. IF CSCE WERE TO REACH AN AGREED FIGURE FOR THE SMALLEST SIZE OF MANEUVER FOR WHICH NOTIFICATION WERE NECESSARY, THIS MIGHT PREJUDICE EVENTUAL MBFR STABILIZING MEASURE. HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE IT WOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY TO ARGUE FOR GREATER STRINGENCY IN MBFR CONTEXT.

5. OTHER CBM ISSUES, WHICH WE GATHER INCLUDE AREA, FORM OF AGREEMENT, AND MODALITY OF NOTIFICATION, SEEM UNLIKELY TO OFFSET MBFR NEGOTIATIONS SIGNIFICANTLY. HUMES

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NNN

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